

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-20 in the application. Claims 13-20 were previously withdrawn pursuant to an election requirement. Presently, the Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 8 and have canceled Claims 6 and 12. Accordingly, Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4, 5, 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0076151 to Kinard, et al. (Kinard) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,526,172 to Kanack (Kanack) and U.S. Patent No. 6,487,342 to Wu, et al. (Wu). This rejection is now moot in view of the foregoing amendment, as the Examiner has indicated that the claims would be allowable over these references if the independent claims were amended to include the elements of Claims 6 and 12, respectively, as the Applicants have now done.

Therefore, as indicated by the Examiner, the cited references do not render the claims as presently amended obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

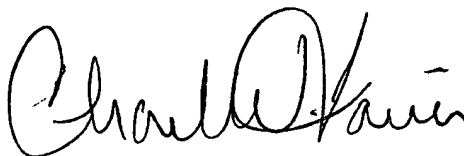
II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-5 and 7-11.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles W. Gaines". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "G".

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Dated: 4/2/04

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